

Famous Horse Polk Badget

Won \$150,000

Chicago, April 20.—"Come in and see the notorious horse, Polk Badget, that was raced as a ringer by the Brannon brothers, and with which they won \$150,000. Admission 10 cents."

That was the sign that nearly twenty years ago was hung out over the entrance to the old fair grounds in St. Louis, and that epitomized the story of the most famous single "ringing" case in the history of the American turf. Making allowance for the hysteria of the management of the fair grounds, and the exaggeration of the men who suggested the exhibition, it is undoubtedly within the facts that a sum in excess of \$100,000 was won on the fraud.

The idea of exhibiting the horse was that all men might know him and his usefulness in further offense be destroyed. An odd spectacle he was. The paint that had been used to turn him from a bay into a chestnut had begun to fade, and in patches his original color came back into its own. His real name, as most persons will recall, was Tanner, a bay or brown gelding by Long Taw, that had raced with some distinction in the east when owned by Green B. Morris and J. De Long.

He was of that serviceable sort of horse that was just below stake form, but still better than useful. When he had passed 5 years old, he was bought from De Long for a substantial price—said to have been \$4,000—for western parties who at that time were undisclosed. There was nothing unusual about the purchase. That came later. The horse was taken west. There was a no-account horse in the west called Polk Badget. In general information he resembled Tanner. The Brannons painted up Tanner, entered him as Polk Badget, bet on him all over the country and made a fortune.

They had a sheep ranch in Nevada, where they "turned out" their horses when too closely pursued, and at Plano, Ill., they bought grounds that had been once used for polo, and on it they trained their horses preparatory to starting them. Plano was out of the road of ordinary travel, and the excuse for the purchase of it, the resting up of sheep before shipment to Chicago, was accepted if, indeed, any one was curious enough to inquire.

There were originally three in the combination, with B. A. Chilson, of Ukiah, Calif., as the directing spirit. His name is mentioned because he admitted his position and connection in the courts of New York in the Freckman and the Fiddler cases. The other two admitted the wagering of money, but denied any knowledge of the ring. There were three trainers—one of them T. T. Cromwell, who was ruled out of the turf for the Fiddler case at Morris park in October, 1903, a boy who was known as "Jimmie," and a negro who was indiscriminately known as J. V. Wilkins, Geo. Faulkner, and J. Davis, but who, in his testimony, described himself with particularity as "a flat-footed hustler and a crap-shooting nigger."

The combination took some years in formation, but eventually assumed proportions that seemed to justify Chilson in launching it. He was an all-round horseman of the woolly and rascally type—a fair sort of judge of thoroughbreds—an expert in chemistry and had dabbled in veterinary. He furnished the goods and his partners the money.

In March, 1892 they really began their extended campaign. They had a two-year-old called Spooks—a worthless, ill-bred, sluggish filly. She performed sufficiently bad to demonstrate her lack of class. This was at Oakland.

Down near Santa Barbara they had in training a four-year-old mare, Abba L. After a little painting by Chilson and Wilkins, they smuggled old Spooks out of Oakland, substituted Abba L. and won with her. The mare, in the belief that she was Spooks, opened up at 100 to 1 and from pool rooms in Portland, Ore., Seattle and Chicago, upwards of \$40,000 was taken. The betting at the track netted only \$1,000 because there was fear on the part of the confederacy that any splurge there would lead to inquiry and probable discovery. Then they took Abba L. down to Petaluma, raced her there in her right name, and the next year shipped her to Latonia where she was "rung" as a two-year-old under the name of Untrue, and won at five furlongs.

Prior to this hide-and-seek game, the gang had played fast and loose on the Montana circuit and the while they bought McNamara. While this was the horse that brought them their largest winnings, he was also the beginning of their downfall and disruption. He was such a "useful" horse that they began to cast envious eyes on the east, and they later came here to their undoing.

He was bought in Butte and a bill of sale made out to a man in Death, Nevada, Chilson and the other party took him into a canon some 10 miles beyond Butte and through a peroxide process, made of him, a chestnut and shipped him to the fair grounds, St. Louis. He was there got ready to be Hiram Johnson. It was intended to start him there, but he did not show form good enough in his work, and he was reserved for New Orleans, going by way of Texas.

Money to bet on him was planted all over the country in the rooms. There were probably fifty men in all who had commissions to place, and they put them down with an assurance that was astounding to the layers of odds. Still, only a few dollars dribbled into the ring at the track—just the sort of money and the quantity of money that might be expected from an innocent looking countryman owner and an apparently dense negro with a one-horse stable.

Sam Hildreth had a horse in the same race—Major Tenny—and his work had been so good that Sam net a large sum on him. Sam was prosperous, and when Sam is prosperous, the bets in the thousands. His lead was followed, too, by a large number of his friends, and so there was a market for the "Hiram Johnson" money. Well, "Hiram Johnson" won. Hildreth openly said that no maiden beat his horse, and an investigation followed. Plausible stories were told and the man and the negro went to their stable with the horse. That night, while the stewards were discussing the case in the Boston club, the horse and the men disappeared. There was much lamentation in the rooms—up to the extent of \$100,000, it was said—but it is probable that some rooms desiring some notoriety rather "bunched" their losses. A half of the \$100,000 was nearer the mark, undoubtedly.

Thence the horse was sent to Latonia and "roached"; and from there was taken to the Nevada ranch to "shed out." His value as a chestnut had been realized on, and he had to be returned as a bay, and another bay of similar conformation, but inferior quality, bought. A horse named The Fiddler was chosen as the appropriate one, and he was selected. He was purchased, sent to Nevada, and then, after McNamara had been made to represent him, The Fiddler was killed.

The Fiddler's teeth did not correspond with those of McNamara and so McNamara's were doctored and he was punched fired to correspond with The Fiddler. McNamara ran in several places out west, and in nearly every race he won. Then came the eastern campaign. He and another horse were shipped to Sheepshead Bay, and it was the intention of the confederacy to attempt a coup there on September 27, 1903. A cipher for the date of the coup had been made. It was the word "Lantern." In some way which was never explained, there was a confusion of the cipher, with the result that the horse was scratched.

Then came a fixing up of the trouble, and on October 3, 1903, at Morris park, McNamara was entered at The Fiddler, and everything was in readiness. It was the last race of the last day of the meeting and The Fiddler won. Only \$20 was bet on him in the ring—\$10 to win in Leo Mayer's book and \$10 third with George Constidine.

That was the stall. He was backed in every room in the country. The negro, Wilkins, or Faulkner, or Davis, went especially to Chicago to see

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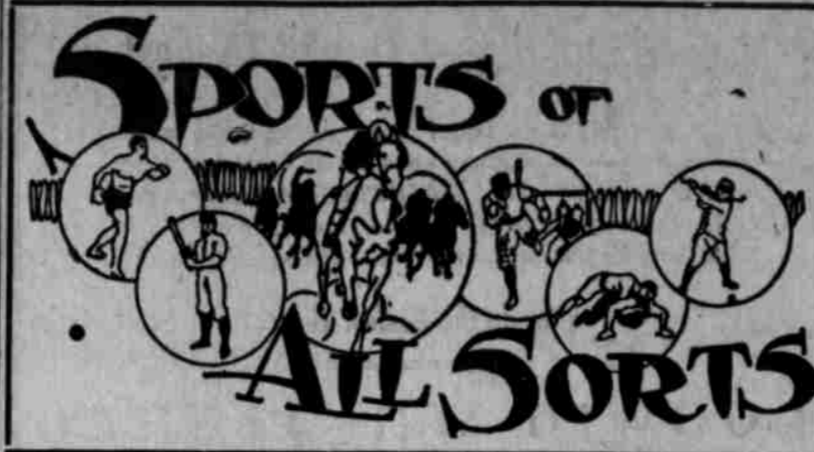
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THOMPSON GETS BIG BOOST

"Cyclone Johnny" is Getting to Be Great Favorite With Fight Fans in Antipodes.

After a poor start, "Cyclone Johnny" Thompson has become a great favorite among the fight fans of Australia, according to letters received by fight-



"Cyclone Johnny" Thompson.

ing men in Chicago. The Sycamore fighter got in "bad" when he first went to Australia because of his failure to make the weight necessary to keep him in the lightweight division, as he had been advertised, but since Thompson has been taking them on

without weight restrictions and going out of his class he has gained an immense following.

Rudolph Unholz, the Fighting Boer, who has returned to America, fought Thompson several times in the lightweight class, and declares he is the greatest fighter in the business. Unholz declares he does not think the light, welter or middleweight lives who can put Thompson out in twenty rounds. Unholz said the other day: "I think Thompson must be nearly forty years old, and he is certainly a wonder for a man of that age. He is fighting stronger than ever; seems to be getting younger."

Colleges Take Up Boxing

Athletes May Battle for Honor in Ring as Well in Various Other Sports.

Athletes representing various colleges soon may battle for honors in the ring as well as on the diamond, gridiron and tennis court. Plans for a boxing league, long in contemplation, were aided when William J. Crombie, physical instructor in the University of Pennsylvania, sent letters to Yale, Princeton, Harvard, Cornell and Columbia suggesting the formation of an intercollegiate boxing association.

Pennsylvania has already given attention to boxing. Bouts at the various weights form a big feature of the May Day sports. The bouts are conducted under the amateur rules and never have been marked by one serious accident. Such clever men as Danny Hutchinson, Larry Miller, James Skinner, Livingston Sullivan, T. D. Barclay and E. D. Roseberry competed in the bouts.

For him, but that had no terror for Chilson, and little hope for the partner.

Freckman started east as Uncle Frank, and then began a series of one-night stands. Chilson was in no hurry to hook up with the Jockey club. When he reached them he wanted to be ready. He was good at the waiting game, for it was results he was after.

The entry of "Catacraft," that had never before appeared on any race program, was made out, in the last race of the day, October 30, 1905, in New York, and Freckman was brought over for "the killing." But the Jockey club was on the alert from The Fiddler case, and the moment identification began, there was a scurrying for safety. The plot was exposed and Freckman impounded. Later the negro Wilkins sought to have the horse returned to him in a replevin suit, but he was unsuccessful. In that suit Wilkins, and Chilson himself, before Judge Hoffman, gave the testimony that is here authenticated.

One Conductor Helped Back to Work

Mr. Wilford Adams is his name, and he writes: "I was confined to my bed with chronic rheumatism and used two bottles of Foley's Kidney Remedy with good effect. The third bottle put me on my feet and I resumed work as conductor on the Lexington, Ky., Street Railway. It will do all you claim in cases of rheumatism. It clears the blood of uric acid. O. G. Schaefer and Red Cross Drug Co.

Herbert—I started to propose to Belle while skating last night.

Hiram—Did the proposal go through?

Herbert—No; but the ice did.

STILL PENDING.

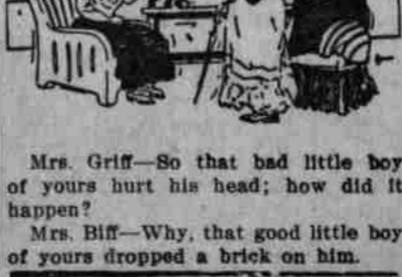


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BETWEEN NEIGHBORS.



Mrs. Griff—So that bad little boy of yours hurt his head; how did it happen?

Mrs. Biff—Why, that good little boy of yours dropped a brick on him.

China and Cut Glass SALE

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Every Article in CHINA and CUT GLASS for One-half Regular Retail Price.

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Call and see our bargains---ONE-HALF REGULAR RETAIL PRICE.

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COLUMBIA MUSIC FESTIVAL

Columbia, S. C., April 20.—Music lovers from several states have arrived here to attend the three-days' spring musical festival which opened here today. One of the attractions is Victor Herbert, accompanied by his famous orchestra and a number of noted soloists, including Mme. Eleonora de Cisneros, the mezzo soprano of the Chicago Opera company, Mrs. Agnes Kimball, soprano; Lillian Snelling, contralto; Evan Williams, tenor; Harry J. Fellows, F. Neri De Luca and Frank Croton.

DREAD OF AN OPERATION

N. Manchester, Ind.—Mrs. Eva Bashore, of this place, says, "I suffered female misery of every description. Two doctors attended me, and advised an operation. I lost weight until I weighed only ninety pounds. I dreaded an operation, and, instead, began to take Cardui. In a short time, I gained 25 pounds, and feel as well as I ever did. Cardui, I am sure, saved my life." Cardui is today used in thousands of homes, where it relieves pain and brings back strength and ambition. It is a woman's medicine, for women's ailments, and you are urged to try it for your troubles. Ask your druggist. He will tell you about Cardui.

Good results always follow Foley's Kidney Pills. They give prompt relief in all cases of kidney and bladder disorders. Try them. O. G. Schaefer and Red Cross Drug Co.

Nasal Catarrh quickly yields to treatment by the agreeable, aromatic Ely's Cream Balm. It is received through the nostrils and cleanses and heals the whole surface over which it diffuses itself. Druggists sell the 50c. size. Test it and you are sure to continue the treatment till relieved.

Announcement.

To accommodate those who are partial to the use of atomizers in applying liquids into the nasal passages for catarrhal troubles, the proprietors prepare Cream Balm in liquid form which will be known as Ely's Liquid Cream Balm. Price including the spraying tube is 75 cents. Druggists or by mail. The liquid form embodies the medicinal properties of the solid preparation.

CHICHESTER'S PILLS

THE DIAMOND BRAND. Ask your Druggist for Chichester's Diamond Brand Pills in Red and Gold wrapper, sealed with Blue Ribbon. Take no other. Buy of your Druggist. Ask for CHICHESTER'S DIAMOND BRAND PILLS, for 25 years known as Best. Sufferers Always Relieve. SOLD BY DRUGGISTS EVERYWHERE.

Want Ad. Habit

Some habits one should want to break and all bad habits are bad to keep.

The Want Ad. Habit is the best all round good habit anyone can have.

Anyone who will read each day The Optic Want Ad. page with a purpose to select the best opportunity that he may find and then follows up the "lead," will surely get quick success.

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ECZEMA CURE A BEAUTY WASH

Although D. D. D. Prescription has been recognized for years as the one remedy for eczema, psoriasis, and all other forms of skin diseases, it is now known that there is no other wash, even those used by the beauty specialists, that can compare with this mild liquid for cleansing the skin of pimples, blackheads, rash, and all similar skin affections.

For this reason alone, a bottle of D. D. D. should be kept on hand in every household. A trial 25c bottle will show you the merits of this great remedy as a complexion wash.

D. D. D. seems to remove the cause, whatever the trouble may be, cleansing the skin, and leaving it as soft, as smooth and clear as that of a healthy child.

Get a 25c bottle today and keep it in the house.

K. D. Goodall.